

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3012

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Charlie Dent
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies
HVC-227, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dent and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz:

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the health and well-being of our nation's veterans. Our veterans have made great sacrifices to ensure the safety and best interests of our nation. Your support of our nation's great men and women is sincerely appreciated. We believe that the Committee's past support goes a long way to help save lives and hope to build on its success.

We know that you share our deep concern about the high rate at which veterans are committing suicide. As you balance a number of competing interests in preparing the final appropriations for FY 2018, we ask that you consider the recent study which found that the annual suicide rate among veterans remains unacceptably high at roughly 50% higher than the civilian rate for individuals with similar demographic profiles.

Providing funding for programs that offer suicide prevention counseling and peer-to-peer outreach services has made a dramatic difference in the lives of many veterans. Continuing support for such programs is vital in reducing suicides among our service members. Accordingly, we ask that you support full funding of \$173 million in FY 2018 for veteran suicide prevention and outreach programs.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress


FRANK A. LOBIONDO
Member of Congress


ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress



PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress



TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



TONY CÁRDENAS
Member of Congress



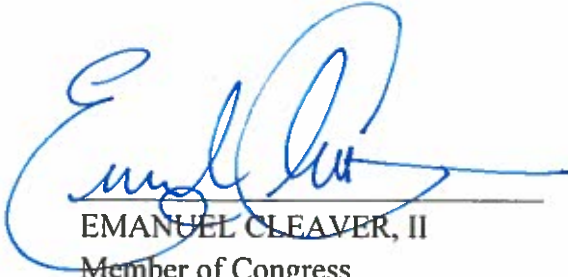
LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress



LEONARD LANCE
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress



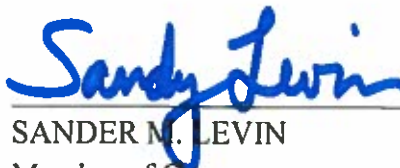
EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



SANDER M. LEVIN
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



RON KIND
Member of Congress



DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress



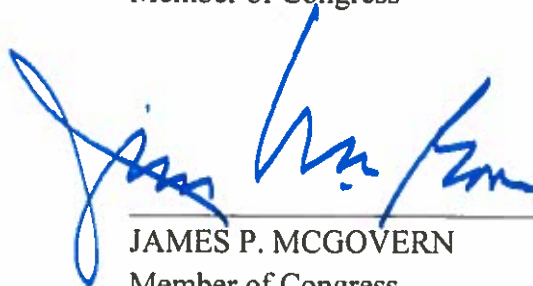
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AL GREEN
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ALBIO SIRES
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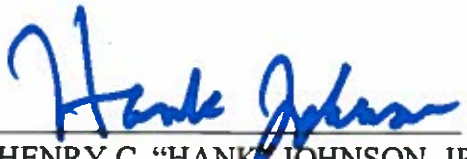
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SUZAN DELBENE
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JARED HUFFMAN

Member of Congress

Val B. Demings

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Eric Swalwell

ERIC SWALWELL

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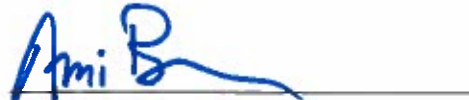
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AMI BERA
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ELIJAH CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



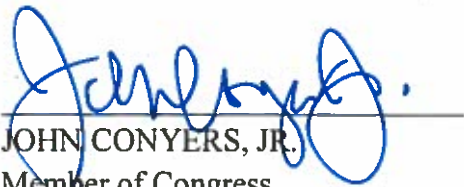
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FILEMON VELA
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KYRSTEN SINEMA
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



NORMA J. TORRES
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BRENDAN F. BOYLE
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STACEY E. PLASKETT
Member of Congress



TULSI GABBARD

Member of Congress



TOM MACARTHUR

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KATHLEEN M. RICE

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JOE COURTNEY

Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER

Member of Congress



BETO O'ROURKE

Member of Congress



CAROL SHEA-PORTER

Member of Congress



JAMIE RASKIN

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ANN MCLANE KUSTER

Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS

Member of Congress



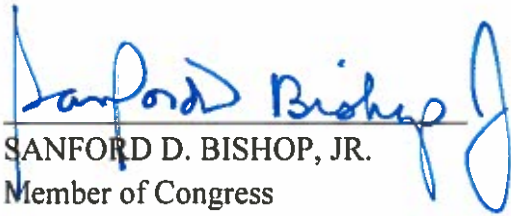
BARBARA LEE

Member of Congress



JOSH GOTTHEIMER

Member of Congress


SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress


LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

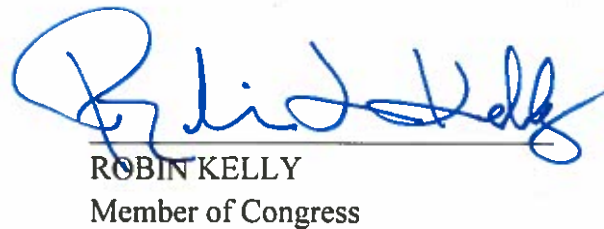

ANNA G. ESHOO
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JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress


JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress


YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress


BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim J. Walz", is written over a horizontal line.

TIM WALZ

Member of Congress